

REMARKS

Applicants' would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to this case.

In order to address the Claim Objections, the spacing of the lines of text in the claims has been increased to 1.5 lines for readability. Claims 22 and 55-61 have been canceled.

In order to facilitate prosecution of the pending application, claims 12-69 have been canceled by the Applicant. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 21-24, 56-60, 65-67, and 69 by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn. New independent claims 70 and 78 are based on original claims 1 and 9 respectively. New dependent claims 71-77 are based on original claims 2-8, and new dependent claims 79-90 are based on original claims 2, 8, 10, 14, 16-19, and 58-59; new claim 89 is based on support in the specification [0062], line 7 and [0067], line 3). For the Examiner's convenience, support in the specification and originally filed claims for many of the amended claims and new claims is provided in the Appendix following these remarks. Applicant preserves the right to prosecute claims 12-69 in one or more continuation applications.

Claim 1 was amended for antecedent basis for the term "rotatable" and for clarity by replacing "an" with "a" and by replacing "covering" with "covers". The Examiner has asked the Applicant to show that claim 1 and claim 9 are patentable over Andros. Andros discloses, (col. 3, lines 30-33), "Cleaning pad 10 includes a disc shaped core 12 having opposed, generally planar major surfaces 13 and 14, and a plurality of apertures 15 extending therethrough." The core 12 of Andros is clearly a solid with apertures as shown in FIG.1 and accordingly only includes outer surfaces. Fluid may flow between the top 13 and bottom 14 outer surfaces of the core 12 of Andros, however the top 13 and the bottom 14 surfaces are opposed major surfaces and do not constitute the inner and outer surfaces of Applicant's rotatable base in claims 1 and 9. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has asked the Applicant to show that claim 1 is patentable over de Larios. There is no teaching in de Larios that the porous material is interlocked with the rotatable base (via 260). de Larios refers to 260 (and also 360) as a “rotation device” that rotates the brush 240; the document of record is silent as to how the brush 240 is connected to the core 230. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

New Claim 70 is patentable over Andros. Claim 70 recites a ***hollow*** rotatable base as described in Applicant’s specification paragraphs ([0028], [0065], [0069], and illustrated in FIG. 2, FIG.3, and FIG. 5) with through channels that permit fluid flow between an inner and outer surface of the hollow rotatable base. This hollow structure is further clarified by reciting that “**a**” porous sponge material that covers the inner surface of the hollow rotatable base reduces the volume of hollow rotatable base as described in paragraph [00101] of the Applicant’s specification and is shown for example by reference to Applicant’s FIG. 6 and FIG. 7. Andros’ cleaning pad 10 has (see Andros, col. 3, lines 30-35) a disk shaped core 12 with apertures 15 through opposed “generally planar major surfaces” of the disk. Andros cleaning pad includes (col. 4, lines 29-35) an “axial bore 27” extending through the sponges for fastening the cleaning pads to a rotatable shaft. Andros core 12 is not hollow as recited in Applicant’s claim 70. Further, Andros does not have one or more through channels that permit fluid flow between an inner surface and an outer surface of the hollow rotatable base where one or more of the through channels are filled with porous sponge material.

New Claim 70 is patentable over the de Larios document of record. Claim 70 recites that the porous sponge material fills one or more of the through channels as disclosed in Applicant’s specification paragraph [0019], lines 8-10. de Larios fails to show this feature.

New Claim 78 is patentable over Andros. Applicant’s Claim 78 recites a ***hollow*** rotatable base with an inner surface and an outer surface and an adherent porous pad material that fluidly connects the inner surface and the outer surface of the hollow rotatable base; the adherent porous pad covers at least a portion of the outer surface of the hollow rotatable base. Andros discloses a solid disc shaped core that is *not hollow* and that has opposed “generally planar major surfaces” rather than the inner and outer surfaces of the hollow rotatable base of Applicant’s new claim 78.

Further, Andros does not disclose a cast or molded adherent porous pad material covering at least a portion of the outer surface of a *hollow* rotatable base.

New claim 78 recites that the porous sponge material fills one or more of the through channels as disclosed in Applicant's specification paragraph [0019], lines 8-10. de Larios fails to show this feature.

Applicant has included an Information Disclosure Statement with the electronic filing of this paper under 37 CFR 1.97(c)(2). The documents of record were cited in a search report for the related Taiwanese Patent Application.

In view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for final allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. Although Applicant believes no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. **501-908** for any fees that may be due in connection with this response. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding these remarks, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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